

*In Hawaii, **SYPHILIS** is among*

*BACK*  
*BACK* Gay Men!

### **WHAT IS IT?**

- Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- You can get it from having oral, anal or vaginal sex with someone who has syphilis.
- You can have syphilis and not even know it. The only way to tell is by having a special test.
- It can be cured if you take the right medicine.

### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

Look for a sore on or around your penis, mouth or anus.

- The sore may not hurt. Many people don't see or feel it at all
- You may see it one week to three months after having sex with someone who has syphilis.
- The sore goes away by itself in a few weeks but you are not cured. You can still pass syphilis on to someone.
- A few months later, you may get a:
  - ◆ rash, fever, sore throat, or hair loss.
- These problems will also go away and you can still pass syphilis on to someone.

Syphilis stays in your body until you take the right medicine.

### **IF NOT TREATED**

- Syphilis is a serious disease.
- It can cause heart and brain damage, blindness and even death.

### **HOW TO FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE IT**

- Go to a clinic or a doctor right away to get a blood test for syphilis.
- Free and confidential syphilis testing and treatment are available through the Department of Health.
- Your partner(s) may also have syphilis and need to get checked and take the right medicine.

### **PROTECT YOURSELF!**

- Whether you have sex with men, women, or both-- using a latex condom (rubber) is the best way to protect yourself from STDs.
- If you have unprotected sex with more than one partner or if your only partner might be having sex with other people, get an STD exam every 6 months.
- Do not have sex if your partner(s) have signs of STD.